

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
COUNCIL TAX PAYING MEMBERS  
OF  
MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN ASSOCIATION**

**Held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2002 at 6.30 PM  
At 28 Montpelier Square.**

There were 13 members of the Association present. Mr Bernard Asher (Chairman) was delayed and Mr D Quirici (Treasurer) opened the meeting. Mr J Mackay-Lewis (Committee Member), Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Tosato and Mrs Ker sent their regrets that they were unable to attend.

- 1) The Minutes of the AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 were distributed. Mr David Eckhardt proposed they be accepted, Mr Nicholas Davy-Thornhill seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
- 2) The Accounts for 2001 were distributed. (Copy attached.) Mr Daniel Quirici (Treasurer) reported the expenditure for the year had been kept low, an increase of £150.00 over the previous year. The reserve fund was now in a healthy position. With no major expenditure planned for the coming year, Mr Quirici proposed the Accounts be accepted and the Precept remained unchanged. Mrs Jane Bradbury seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
- 3) The Garden Chairman's Report. Lady Marshall (Garden's Chairman) she said the Garden was in good shape with general maintenance accounting for most of the expenditure. Work was carried out to improve the brick edging around the seating area. In the border between the lawn & the garden shed a wattle fence has been erected to prevent a cut through from becoming established. Part of the Garden has been contaminated with Honey Fungus. After consulting Mr Akers of Westminster City Council, the sycamore by the seating area was found to be the badly infected host tree. Russell James, tree surgeon, was called in to fell the tree in sections, grind out the roots and remove the timber. The infected area will be treated with anti fungicide before any replanting. Holly, which is Honey Fungus resistant, will be planted as a hedge to screen the seating area from the North road. The plane tree in the North border, planted 5 years ago, is proving a poor specimen and its future will be reviewed after another growing season. During the coming year the South West corner of the lawn will need attention as attempts to get the grass to grow in that area have failed. In the spring, to stop children trampling on the bluebells, a temporary barrier will be erected during the growing & flowering season. Mr Asher, on behalf of the residents, thanked Lady Marshall for all her work during the last year. He pointed out that we were lucky not to have to employ a professional manager and that we were all very grateful for the time she spends organising the Garden.

- 4) The Gardener's Maintenance Contract. The Gardener's Maintenance Contract is due for renewal in April. Consultation about the contract price is continuing. The present contract expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Mr Spike Jackson, the contractor, has indicated that he will increase the basic contract price by only 0.05% but extra work will be charged at £15.00 per man-hour, a rise of £2.00 per man-hour. After a discussion it was unanimously agreed to award Mr Spike Jackson the contract, subject to the consultation, for a further 3 years.
- 5) The Jubilee Party. Mr Asher said the Committee proposed that we should have a Party in the Garden to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. He felt it should be early enough in the evening to allow children to join in. It was unanimously agreed to hold a Party and the date could be decided by sending a note to residents with a selection of 2 dates asking them to state their preference.
- 6) Provisional Date for the Next AGM. It was agreed that the AGM should be during the last week of January and first week of February.
- 7) Any Other Business.
  - A) Mr Asher proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Jane Bradbury for organising the Christmas Carol Party. It raised £558.50 for the Salvation Army and everyone was very grateful to her for all the work she put in to make it such a success.
  - B) Private Parties. There have been requests for private parties in the Garden. The Committee has unanimously agreed not to relax the rule on private parties. The only organised private parties are for children under 8, having first obtained permission from the Garden's Chairman.
  - C) The gates to the Garden are, from time to time, left open. Mr Asher told the meeting that it would be helpful if residents could let him know the names of the offenders as he would then write to them. It has been reported that some youths, who are not resident in the Square, are climbing over the railings and using the Garden. Mr Asher suggested that they should be approached with caution and never by anyone alone
  - D) Lighting. Mr Davies-Gilbert reported that he had spoken to Mr Ashby, Westminster City Council, who was optimistic that Montpelier Square would be on the forthcoming budget. Mr Asher pointed out that the street lighting was outside the Garden Committee's remit but he recognised that it had an influence on the Garden. If, within a reasonable time, the Council were not going to put extra lighting then perhaps an approach to Westminster City Council suggesting a contribution to the capital cost of their scheme. If Westminster City Council agreed to such a proposition it would be put to residents of the Square at an EGM

- E) Security. David Eckhardt told the meeting that two years ago he had carried out extensive research on installing a security system either by placing cameras in the Garden and around the Square. The installation and running costs would be too high to make it feasible.

The Chairman signed the Minutes for 2001 AGM and the Meeting was adjourned at 8.45 PM.

Signed.....

Date.....